

## Safety & Security

Personal vigilance is key to remaining safe in South Africa. Like any big city throughout the world, Cape Town has its share of crime. We take a lot of trouble to give you detailed safety advice once you arrive in Cape Town and we urge you to heed it.

South Africa is experiencing rapid political, social and economic change and we do have an undesirable incidence of crime - particularly petty theft. It is also a society where guns and other weapons are as prevalent as in the United States. We urge you to take appropriate precautions for your personal safety.

You will hear about safety both on and off campus during the IAPO orientation. Speakers and resources will include other students, Campus Security officers and members of the South African police. We urge you to listen carefully and to read all the materials that will be distributed to you. It is your responsibility to learn which actions and areas are safe and which may put you at risk. If you are unsure about a situation or activity, ask someone in a position to evaluate the level of safety.

All study abroad students will be assisted to register at their embassy during the orientation period. We will also retain copies of your medical insurance details on file should the need arise to consult these during an emergency. It is your responsibility to keep IAPO, your family and friends at home, and your home institution informed of your address and contact details throughout your stay. IAPO also asks all students to record their travel plans with us prior to departure (many students spend some time travelling through Southern Africa during their stay).

### **SOME SUGGESTIONS:**

- Keep valuables in a locked place and do not carry large sums of money, wear expensive jewellery, or obviously display valuable items such as cameras when you walk on the street.
- Unless you have an immediate need for it (e.g. for cashing travellers checks) we also urge that you NOT carry your passport with you on a daily basis; a photocopy of the front page should be adequate.
- Do not walk alone at night; go with other students and take a taxi service to get back to

your apartment or house. **Do not explore unfamiliar areas of town on your own.** Report any harassment or threatening situation that you may experience to the appropriate authorities, including the International Academic Programmes Office.

- Make sure you know where you can reach someone in case of an emergency. IAPO issues all study abroad students with an emergency phone sheet and members of IAPO staff are contactable 24 hours a day should the need arise. Please also be aware of your safety in terms of guarding against accidents.
- Do not get a lift with anyone who has been drinking and, if you choose to buy or hire a car, do not drink and drive – if you want to go out partying hard, please arrange lifts with a metered taxi company,



**Group 4 Securicor**

### **Campus Protection Services (CPS)**

- Burnage House, Basement of Robert Leslie Building, Upper Campus
- Level 2, Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus
- Forest Hill (Block E), Lower Campus

### **Emergency numbers – all hours:**

Lower Campus – 021-650-2222 or 021-650-2223

Upper Campus – 021-650-2121 or 021-650-4080

Middle Campus – 021-650-3022

Forest Hill – 021-650-3856

### **South African Police Service (SAPS)**

Rondebosch 021-685-4747

Mowbray 021-685-7111

Woodstock 021-442-3122

\* Rondebosch Police Station has a Trauma Counselling Service available to all individuals who unfortunately become a victim of crime.



# *Preventing Crime*

## **BE ALERT FOR SUSPICIOUS PERSONS IN AND AROUND CAMPUS BUILDINGS AND IN PARKING LOTS**

One should ask:

- Are they hanging around for no apparent reason?
- Are they looking into cars as they walk through the parking? Are they going from room to room trying doorknobs?
- Are they carrying valuable property from buildings after normal working hours?
- Do not pursue them. Call CPS.

## **PROTECTING YOURSELF AT YOUR RESIDENCE**

- Lock your door and windows even when leaving the room for a short time.
- Keep emergency numbers next to your phone or fixed on your desk
- Secure your door and window when you are alone and while you are asleep.
- Do not leave house keys hidden in a traditional location, such as under the doormat, etc.
- Do not put your home address on your key ring.
- Get to know your neighbours. You can keep an eye on each other's rooms when you are not there.
- Call CPS to report suspicious persons or activities in or around your neighbourhood.
- Do not leave any messages on your door to indicate that you will be away for a lengthy period of time.
- Do not keep large sums of money inside your room.
- Take your valuables home when you go on vacation.

## **PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY**

### **General**

Theft is the most common crime on campus. The best means of prevention is to reduce or remove the opportunity:

- Whenever you leave your office, laboratory or residence lock the door and close windows
- Never leave access doors propped
- Do not leave any backpack or bags in open public places unsupervised, especially in

cafeterias and libraries.

- Keep record of serial numbers and description of your valuables.
- Engrave your property preferably with your driver's license number.
- Never leave items displayed inside your car while it is parked.
- Invest in a steering wheel or gear lock, if decide to buy a vehicle.

#### **SEXUAL ASSAULT AND RAPE**

A sexual assault does not always have to be committed by a stranger; it can happen on a date. If you find yourself in an uncomfortable situation, know who to call for a ride home, or have money ready for a taxi.

**NOTE the more alcoholic beverages you consume, the less aware and more vulnerable you will become.**

- Ensure that the matter is reported to the local SAPS.
- It is important to remember that all evidence will be lost if a raped person takes a bath, shower, or changes clothes.
- There is always a consultant on duty that can be called out to ensure that all the critical procedures have been conducted and offer advice.

#### **CPS "ESCORT" SERVICES**

In the event that the Jammie Shuttle does not function (after 01:00), we offer assistance to students on foot escorts to their destinations from campus. However, one must understand that our core function on campus is not transportation of patrons, therefore due to the operational reasons; one needs to expect that there may be delays.

#### **IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF A CRIME**

Using the crime prevention techniques suggested in this brochure may reduce your chances of becoming a victim. If you are confronted with a threatening situation, THE FOLLOWING IS IMPORTANT:

- Keeping property is not worth endangering your life; if you are confronted by an armed (or claims to be armed) criminal, give up your property immediately.
- Judge each situation by its individual basis and do anything to stay alive.
- At the first opportunity, contact CPS, the IAPO emergency contact person or the SAPS